The problem may be stated in yet simpler terms as follows: Given some system with a purely mechanistic tendency of any kind—gravitational, magnetic, heat expansion or any other—can it be converted into a teleologically working system, a goal-seeking system, by the addition of a mechanism of memory-traces ? Or still more simply: Can a mechanistic tendency directed to a goal be transformed into conation by allowing it to operate through some mechanism of memory-traces ? The answer, after fullest consideration, must be No.

My verdict, then, is that the mnemic biology fails at the crucial point. I cannot in the very small space remaining to me attempt to convince the reader of the inescapable nature of this verdict. I will only indicate the lines of the argument.

There are two lines of teleological activity of which we have immediate experience, and which therefore in some sense we understand. First and most intelligible, so intelligible that no explanation of any kind is required by the unprejudiced mind, is the tendency to pursue, to continue, any line of activity which brings pleasure, or from which we expect pleasure to result; and conversely, to turn aside from any line of activity which brings us pain or seems certain or likely to bring us pain. Given such fundamental pleasure-seeking and pain-avoiding nature of animal striving, then a mechanism of associative memory will serve to increase the forward-looking range, will render more varied and valid, in proportion to its development, the power of

foreseeing the pleasurable and the painful consequences of any line of activity.

Secondly, perhaps as phylogenetic derivations from this fundamental kind of striving towards pleasure or satis-